

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
July 14, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Mr. Bushemi read the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mr. Hardaway and Mr. Widing were absent. All other members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:

There are three requests for large gathering permits as follows:

St. Sava Church Serb Festival will take place July 31- Aug. 2, 2015. Ms. Gregor stated the conditions are the same as last year with Lake County handling security. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve with the same conditions as last year as well as having Chief Petruch increase patrols for all three days of the festival. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

St. Elijah Serbfest will take place July 24 – July 26, 2015. Ms. Gregor stated the conditions are the same as last year with Lake County handling security. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve with the conditions and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Salvatorian Fathers Polonia Pilgrimage will take place August 9, 2015. Ms. Gregor stated that the Merrillville Police Department will be providing patrol. Mrs. Miano made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Shared Ethics Advisory appointments as follows:

Mrs. Barron made a motion to appoint Artie Russell to the Shared Ethics Citizens Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

There is a request to appoint employees Mattie Collins and Jim Donohue to receive training for the Shared Ethics Advisory Committee with Matt Lake to serve as an alternate. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated July 14, 2015. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2015. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit stated there are two actions that we need to take in relations to the town court situation where a former employee misappropriated funds and was successfully convicted. First, a court settlement agreement has been prepared to take action with the Attorney General and Great Northern Insurance Companies. Mr. Pettit went on to provide the detailed specifics of the agreement to the council.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the court settlement agreement and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Second, Mr. Pettit discussed the need to replenish the town bond fund and went on to provide the council with the overview of what is needed and how we can achieve our objective.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the reimbursement of the town bond fund and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Spires stated that we have started the process for next year's budget and they all should be turned in by the end of the month.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Spann had no report.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Miano is working on an ordinance related to restricting the sale and/or use of any gun shaped cell phone holders. This type of product puts our town and police officers in jeopardy.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mr. Pettit questioned where we stood in regards to the renewal of Forest Financial Health Insurance. Mr. Spires said that we should have an answer by October 2015.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mr. Widing was absent, no report.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Mrs. Miano discussed the extreme vandalism that occurred at the Pruzin Center Park and Stefek Park. Mrs. Miano said all parks close at dusk. She is asking residents to call the police to report all suspicious activity in the facilities or if residents notice people in parks after they close. Council President Tom Goralczyk suggested parks officials find out the costs to install cameras at Pruzin Center.

Ms. Orlich stated the playground is completed at Wirtes Park and provided some details of the project. She went on to provide an overview of the different park projects that they are currently working on as well as a statistic update regarding program participation. Ms. Orlich said they are working on the Fall/Winter brochure and discussed some of the programs/events she will be incorporating. Ms. Orlich provided an overview of any upcoming projects they plan to establish.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Lake said they are in the process of applying for two grants and provided the council with the detailed information. Mr. Lake is coordinating with the Merrillville School Corporation to host some workshops for the students. He will also be speaking at Washington D.C. at the Building One America summit.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mrs. Miano announced that the 3rd Annual National Night Out will take place on Tuesday, August 4, 2015 from 5-8 p.m. at Town Hall parking lot. She encouraged everyone to attend.

Mr. Pettit requested that we get an estimate to replace any missing/damaged Town of Merrillville “Welcome Signs” for all the entry ways.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit gave an update on the projects within the community and said economic development is still strong.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mrs. Barron had no report. Mr. Goralczyk received notification that a pipeline company will be doing testing that will occur July 16 & 17th and you might hear some air in the pipelines.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

Mr. Hardaway was absent, no report. Mr. Bushemi asked the council to review ordinance 15-16 to establish a vacant building registration and maintenance program, and notify him of any other comments before final reading on July 28, 2015.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

None

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 15-13: An ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Broadway Project Bond/Contractual of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2015 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 15-14: An ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Motor Vehicle Fund of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2015 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 15-15: An ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, providing that the Zoning Ordinance be amended by establishing the Fourth Amendment to Century Plaza Planned Unit Development for revision of interior access roads and private drives from “outlot” tracts and creating Tract 18 for future commercial development. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 15-20: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville Town Council authorizing acquisition of tax sale certificate for real property located at 6746 Madison Street for the purpose of assignment to Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Indiana. Mrs. Miano made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 15-21: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2015 budget within certain categories. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Miano. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

Petitioner: Unique Delivery Services, Inc.
Owner: George Dovellos, Gus Dovellos & Vickie Dovellos
Request: A variance of use approval
Purpose: For a sorting/delivery service facility
Location: 6707 Broadway
Zoning: C-3, Highway Commercial
Case #: Z26uV6-0615
Conditions: For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only.
Truck engines and truck lights must be turned off during the time of unloading.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve with the conditions and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was some discussion related to the conditions set forth. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Gregor discussed the fire damage at Villa Del Sol restaurant. The business proposed to have a mobile food vendor come in to service their customers out in the patio area of the business until October 31, 2015. Villa Del Sol requested the fee of \$250.00 for the registration application to be waived.

Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the fee waiver and was seconded by Mr. Spann. Some discussion followed. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Goralczyk announced that Mr. Widing has given a verbal resignation for the Fire Territory Board. Mr. Goralczyk appointed Mrs. Miano to the Fire Territory Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer’s Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Environmental Resource Committee meeting, July 16, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.
Abandoned Blighted Properties Commission meeting, July 21, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.
Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, July 22, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
Town Council meeting, July 28, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
Latin Satin Soul concert, July 30, 2015 from 7-9 p.m.
National Night Out, August 4, 2015 from 5-8 p.m.
Plan Commission workshop, August 5, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned.

Tom Goralczyk, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer